



Iowa Outdoors

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
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FINAL DRAFT RULES ON BOAT DOCKS AVAILABLE ON INTERNET

DES MOINES - The Iowa Department of Natural Resources has posted the final rules covering boat docks on its website, www.iowadnr.gov/law/index.html. This rule will be presented to the Natural Resource Commission on Feb. 8, for approval. The meeting is scheduled in the fourth floor conference room, Wallace State Office Bldg., in Des Moines, and is open to the public.

The final rule was posted as a word document and as a pdf in two versions. One version is the final rule only; the other notes all the changes with strike-throughs (deleted) and underlines (new).

“This rule is a culmination of years of work by our staff,” said Ken Herring, administrator for the Conservation and Recreation Division of the DNR. “We listened to people directly affected by these rules, some had differing views and opinions and thought we went too far, and others didn’t think we went far enough. In the end, we believe these rules are fair to the parties involved and are fair to the resource.”

If approved, the rules would be effective July 1, 2008.

For more information, contact Lowell Joslin, chief, DNR Law Enforcement, at 515-281-5919.

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Media Contact: Sherry Arntzen, 515-242-6233
Executive Officer, Iowa State Parks Bureau

DNR ENACTS CAMPSITE POLICY FOR FREE CAMPING WEEKEND

DES MOINES – This is the sixth year Iowa residents may camp for free in an Iowa State Park, during Free Camping Weekend, May 4, 5 and 6, 2007.

State park campgrounds have been filling earlier each year by campers wanting to secure their favorite campsite for the weekend. With the new campsite reservation system, some campers are now reserving their site a day or two ahead of time.

Choosing to pay for or reserve a campsite leading up to free camping will secure the campsite for the weekend, but the site must be occupied by 8 a.m. Saturday or it will be opened to first come, first served camping.

“We have had enough of these situations where we felt the need to create a standard policy,” said Sherry Arntzen, with the Iowa State Parks bureau. “Unless we are notified of a breakdown or any unavoidable delay, any unoccupied campsite at 8 a.m. on the Saturday morning of Free Camping Weekend will be considered available for any camper.”

The entire policy is available on the Iowa Department of Natural Resources website www.iowadnr.gov, then click on State Parks, then the Free Camping Weekend 2007 link under Recreation Opportunities in the left side navigation bar.

“We are not changing the way our parks staff had been handling this in the past, but rather making it a formal policy and by getting the word out now, we hope our campers take note,” Arntzen said.

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ICE FISHING CONTEST AT LAKE MANAWA CANCELLED

COUNCIL BLUFFS – The Winterfest ice fishing contest at Lake Manawa scheduled for Jan. 27 has been cancelled due to poor ice conditions. Additional weight from the recent snows has pushed water on to the ice, causing it to weaken.

The Winterfest ice fishing event usually attracts between 500 and 800 anglers.

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TWO SOUTHWEST IOWA LAKES SET TO RECEIVE TROUT

COUNCIL BLUFFS - The Iowa Department of Natural Resources plans to stock 1,400 catchable size rainbow trout in West Big Lake and Sauganash Lake at Western Historic Trails Center, near Council Bluffs, around 3 p.m., on Jan. 24.

“This is an opportunity to catch fish unique to the area without having to travel a great distance,” said Chris Larson, fisheries supervisor for southwest Iowa. Ice conditions are variable, and anglers are encouraged to use caution.

Trout, native to streams in northeast Iowa, are the only coldwater game species in the state. Since they cannot live in warm temperatures, the DNR stocks them in the fall when the weather cools, and they are fished out by spring when the weather warms. Trout are ideal for small, urban lakes because they are easy to catch and provide an activity for families during the winter months.

Iowa residents and non-residents, regardless of age, must pay a trout fee to fish for or possess trout. Individuals, 16 years and older, must also have a valid fishing license. Children, under 16 years, fishing with a properly licensed adult (ie. fishing license and trout fee) do not need a trout fee to fish for or possess trout, but together their daily limit is five trout. For more information on fishing rules, see the *2007 Iowa Fishing Regulations* booklet.

For more information, contact the Southwest Iowa Fisheries Office at 712-769-2587.

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DNR TO STOCK TROUT AT SUMMERSET ON JAN. 26

INDIANOLA – The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is scheduled to stock trout in the South Lake at Summerset Park around noon, on Jan. 26, as long as weather and ice conditions are suitable.

Summerset State Park is the only trout fishery in central Iowa. The trout are raised at the Big Spring hatchery near Elkader. Anglers who want to fish for the trout are required to purchase a trout stamp (\$11) in addition to an Iowa fishing license. The daily bag limit for trout is five and the possession limit is 10.

For more information, contact Ben Dodd at 515-432-2823.

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LAKE RESTORATION REPORT AVAILABLE ONLINE

DES MOINES - The Iowa Department of Natural Resources has released its Lake Restoration Annual Report and Plan online at www.iowadnr.gov/water/lakerestoration/.

The annual report is required by legislation to show the plans and recommendations for lake restoration funding, as well as progress and results from current projects. The report also provides a suggested project list for the next year, and the funding necessary to accomplish those tasks.

The 2006 Infrastructure Bill appropriated \$8.6 million toward lake restoration.

For information on the report, contact Mike McGhee at 515-281-6281 or Tom Wilton at 515-281-8867.

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TREES AND SHRUBS FOR WILDLIFE HABITAT AVAILABLE THIS SPRING

AMES - Habitat created by trees and shrubs is critical to wildlife survival in Iowa. Though one tree gives some benefits, a diverse planting of trees and shrubs give the greatest benefit to the most wildlife.

In response to the call to expand wildlife habitat plantings, the State Forest Nursery, at Ames, is offering low cost Wildlife and Songbird packets of conservation trees and shrubs for citizens to plant this spring.

The Songbird Packet is ideal for an area in the yard to devote to wildlife. The Songbird Packet consists of two bur oaks, two white pine, four wild plum, four chokecherry, four gray dogwoods and four serviceberry plants. The bareroot seedlings are 8-to-24 inches tall. This Songbird Packet sells for \$20 and was developed in cooperation with Audubon Iowa.

The Create-Your-Own Wildlife Packet is for the landowner with 1-to-5 acres. This packet contains 200 trees and or shrubs of your choice for \$90. Trees and shrubs must be ordered in units of 50 plants.

In addition, a special Turkey Packet developed in cooperation with the Iowa Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation contains 50 bur oak, 50 red oak, 50 pin oak and 50 gray dogwood. A special Pheasant Packet developed in cooperation with Iowa Pheasants Forever contains 50 redcedar, 50 wild plum, 50 ninebark and 50 gray dogwood. Finally, a special Quail Packet containing 100 wild plum and 100 gray dogwoods is also available.

To order, contact the State Forest Nursery at 1-800-865-2477 or go on line to www.iowadnr.com/forestry/. The packets will be delivered from the middle of April through May with instructions and ready for planting.

For more information, contact John Walkowiak, chief of the Iowa DNR forestry bureau at 515-242-5966 or john.walkowiak@dnr.state.ia.us.

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